

P29317.A02

Customer No. 7055

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Stephan AHLBORN

Group Art Unit: 1724

Appln. No. : 10/575,901

Examiner: Richard L. CHIESA

(U.S. National Stage entry of PCT/DE04/02283)

I.A. Filed : October 14, 2004

Confirmation No.: 4683

For : SELF-FLUSHING ELECTROSTATIC SEPARATOR

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Amendment
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97-1.98, Applicants hereby direct the Examiner's attention to the following information, which includes documents cited in the International Preliminary Report on Patentability (PCT/IPEA/409, in English and German), and the International Search Report (in English and German) for International Application No. PCT/DE04/02283, of which the above-referenced application is a National Stage. In particular, the International Examiner cited:

- (1) European Patent Application Publication No. EP 0 685 635 A1, published December 6, 1995. For the Examiner's convenience, an English language abstract is attached;
- (2) U.S. Patent No. 3,478,494 (LUSTENADER et al.), issued November 18, 1969;
- (3) French Patent Application Publication No. FR 1,073,149, published September 20, 1954;
- (4) U.S. Patent No. 6,582,500 B1 (OHADI et al.), issued June 24, 2003;

P29317.A02

Customer No. 7055

(5) German Patent No. DE 195 16 817 C1, issued June 27, 1996. For the Examiner's convenience, an English language abstract is attached; and

(6) United Kingdom Patent Application Publication No. GB 2 177 625 A, published January 28, 1987.

Applicant further directs the Examiner's attention to the following information cited in a German Search Report dated March 3, 2004, with regard to counterpart German Patent Application No. 203 15 935.7. The German Examiner cited:

(7) German Patent No. DE 197 04 461 C1, issued May 7, 1998; This document is categorized in the European Search Report as a Y, i.e. casting doubt on novelty or non-obviousness in combination with another document from this category, with regard to Claim 1 of the German Application, with reference made to Figure 4 of the cited document. For the Examiner's convenience, an English language abstract is attached; and

(8) International Publication No. WO 02/04126 A1, published January 17, 2002; This document is categorized in the European Search Report as an A document, i.e. as defining the general state of the art and illustrating the technological background, with regard to Claim 1 of the German Application, with reference made to Figures 1 and 4 of the cited document. Furthermore, Applicant notes U.S. Patent No. 6,635,105 B2 (AHLBORN et al.), issued October 21, 2003, which is a U.S. Patent family member of the cited International document.

Copies of the above-cited documents (with the exception of the U.S. Patents) and the citing documents are enclosed together with a completed copy of the PTO-1449 Form listing the cited documents. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to consider these documents and to indicate such consideration by returning a signed and initialed copy of the PTO-1449 Form with the next official communication.

P29317.A02

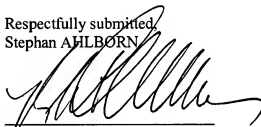
Customer No. 7055

Further to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's decision to partially waive the requirements under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98 (a)(2)(i) and (iii), copies of the U.S. Patents cited above are not enclosed herewith. However, if any copies are needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Applicant notes that an Office Action on the merits has not yet issued in the instant application, and thus, no fee is necessary to ensure consideration of this statement. However, if an Office Action has issued and is crossing in the mail with this statement, the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 19-0089 any fee necessary to ensure consideration of the submitted materials.

If there should be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephan A. HLBORN



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